

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action.

Claims 1, 4 and 6-9 are now pending in the application, and the Examiner indicated these claims as being allowable in the Office Action mailed May 20, 2003. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. Claims 5 and 10-18 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 19 and 20 are amended to remove their dependence on Claim 5. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5, 19-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Takada, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,732).

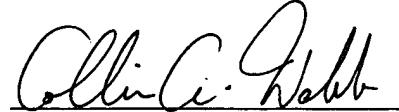
Applicant does not concede the propriety of any part of the rejection of the remaining claims, and will pursue at least Claims 5 and 10-18 in a divisional application. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of this application, the withdrawn and rejected claims have been cancelled with the exception of Claims 19, 20 and 24.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend only from allowed Claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Claims 19 and 20 should themselves be allowed. Likewise, Claim 24 should be allowed because it depends from allowed Claim 1. However, if the Examiner disagrees that any of Claims 19, 20 and 24 should be allowed, he is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Collin A. Webb
Registration No. 44,396

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CAW:ayr
139836 v 1

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800